Making Music with Nature
for Ages 5–12

Explore the sounds of nature and exercise your ingenuity by designing your own nature wind chimes!

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:
Natural materials (like sticks, rocks, and acorns), twine and a hollow container from the recycling (glass bottle, soup can, or mini flower pot).

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:
Glue, hammer and nail for poking holes.

1. Collect sticks and other materials for your chimes:
Think about what natural materials will make a neat sound when they hit a hollow container and explore outside to collect some. Things like rocks, sticks, and seeds are good places to start. Test materials as you find them by tapping them on your container! What sound do they make?

2. Decorate and prepare: Ask an adult for help. Gently tap holes into the bottom of the container using a hammer and nail. Poke the twine through the hole. Next, tie a knot on the inside of the container to fasten the twine in place.

3. Prepare your hanger: Fire up your engineering and design skills. This is what you’ll be hanging your chimes from. You may choose to use just one stick or some other item but be creative and have fun! If you want to focus all of your attention on the chimes, a coat hanger is an easy alternative for this step.

4. Finish your creation: Hang the hollow container in the middle. As you add each chime to the hanger, test it to see if it will hit the container and listen to the wonderful sound. Once you’ve tied on your chimes, you can reinforce the twine with glue. Hang it outside and enjoy the music that the wind creates!

TO FURTHER EXTEND THIS ACTIVITY:
Write out instructions for your DIY wind chimes to share with a friend!
Try another DIY instrument activity with PBS kids: DIY musical instruments.